ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

SIPSEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH,

OCTOBER 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH, 1896.

J. B. FERGUSON, Mod'r. J. F. ASHCRAFT, Clerk.
A. E. PATTERSON, Corresponding Clerk.

Next session to be held with Arbor Springs Church, commencing Saturday before 1st Sunday in October, 1897, at 10 A. M.

FYETTE, ALA.:
PRINTED BY R. J. SMITH.
1896.

MINUTES.

The Sipsey Association met in her seventh annual session with Pleasant Ridge Church, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, October 3, 4 and 5, 1896, Fayette county, Ala. The introductory sermon was delivered at 11 a. m. on Saturday, by Rev. J. R Barnett from 1st Cor. 3:13. A large and attentive audience listened to the discourse, after which a recess of an hour and a half was given for refreshments, which were on the ground in abundance for both man and beast.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—The delegates met pursuant to adjournment, and after devotional exercises by the former *M*oderator, Rev. J. B. Ferguson, letters from the various churches were presented; brethren A. E. Patterson and G. W. Ashcraft appointed reading clerks, the letters were read and delegates names enrolled, as follows:

Abor Springs—W. D. Whatley, E. F. Falls, Rev. J. R. Barnett.
Bethabara—Isaac Montgomery, L. Brown, T. H. Wheat.
Corinth—James Mills, jr., S. A Berry, A. M. Mills.
Dunn's Creek—Rev. J. J. Mayfield, G. D. Mayfield, A. J. Lemis.
Friendship—Rev. J. B. Ferguson, Rev. I. L. Collins.
Moore's Bridge B C Strickland, D E Windham, W K Strickland.
Macedonia—A. E. Patterson. B. F. Patterson, E. W. Hudson.
Mount Hebron—J. E. Watson.
New Hope—R. L South, G. N. Davis.
Sardis—J. H. Smith.
Chapel Hill—G. G. Jones, N. D. Blakeney, W. H. Brown.
Double Branch—J. E. Reeves, J. T. Sudduth.
Oak Ridge—S. T. Walker, J. M. Lindsey.
Pleasant Ridge—J. F. Ashcraft, R. B. Shelton, J. *M.* Ashcraft.
Mount Tabor—Rev. J. M. Chism, L. S. Appling, R. W. Daffron.
Pleasant Grove—Rev. J. A. Andrews, S. B. Mullinax, J. W. Brown.
Spring Hill—A. Gunn, J. Champion, J. T, Carter.

The Body then proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the election of Rev. J. B. Ferguson, Moderator; J. F. Ashcraft, Clerk, and A. E. Patterson, Corresponding Secretary.

The Body then proceeded to business, as follows:
An opportunity was offered new churches to join our Association.
Received correspondents, as follows:
From Union Association—Eld. J. B. Small, W. H. Smothers.
From New River—Eld. G. W. Gravlee.

Returned correspondents;
To Union—Jas. Mills, jr., Eld. J. M. Chism, A. M. Mills.
To New River—J. F. Ashcraft, Eld. J. R. Barnett, J. M. Ashcraft, and J. T. Carter.
To Tuscaloosa—James Mills, jr., W. D. Whatley, Eld. R. J. Mayfield, L. Brown, G. D. Mayfield, R. K. Gardner.

Appointed Committees, viz:
On Devotion: G. D. Mayfield, J. W. Brown, W. H. Brown and the deacons of Pleasant Ridge church.
On Finance: D. E. Windham, E. F. Falls, G. N. Davis.
On Documents: Rev. R. J. Mayfield, Rev. J. R. Barnett, James Mills, jr., L. Brown.
On Nominations: A. M. Mills, R. L. South, W. H. Brown,

On Religious Literature: J E Reeves, N D Blakeney, J T Carter.
On Education: A. E. Patterson, Rev. J. M. Chism, A. Guin.

Called for report of District Meetings, which are as follows:

Next meeting of First District will be held with Macedonia church on Friday before the second Sunday in September, 1897; introductory sermon to be delivered by Elder J. R. Barnett; J. S. White alternate. 1st Query: What is the evidence of a call to the Gospel ministry? Opened by J. E. White and R. J. Mayfield. 2nd Query: What was meant by Christ going to preach to the spirits in prison? Opened by A. E. Patterson and J. A. Mitchell. 3rd Query: What is Temperance? Opened by L. Brown and Joe Williamson.

The next session of this Association to be held with Arbor Springs church, Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1897, 10 A. M.

A. E. Patterson, Clerk. Rev. I. L. Collins, Mod'r.

The next session of the Second District will convene with Spring Hill church, Friday before the first Sabbath in September, 1897; the introductory sermon to be delivered by Rev. J. A. Andrews. 1st Query: Does the Bible imperatively require the Church of Christ to give the Gospel to the world? Opened by J. M. Ashcraft and W. H. Brown. 2nd Query: Should the Church establish and maintain Denominational schools? Opened by J. F. Ashcraft. 3rd Query: Has a woman a Scriptural right to occupy the pulpit as a Gospel teacher? Opened by C. R. Davis. 4th Query: "I am the vine, ye are the branches," John 15:5. Is the branches the individual members, or is it the different organized churches? Opened by Rev. J. A. Andrews and J. M. Free. 5th Query: How can we receive the grace of God in vain, as we are instructed not receive it in vain? Opened by Rev. J. M. Chism and J. M. Ashcraft.

J. T. Sudduth, Clerk. J. F. Ashcraft, Mod'r.

Report of Committee on Devotion.

We, your Committee on Devotion, beg leave to report brother G. W. Gravlee, of the New River Association, to preach tonight at the church; class-singing at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning, to be conducted by brothers G. W. Ashcraft and F. E. Wilson. Devotional exercises at 10 o'clock conducted by brother James Mills, jr., and missionary sermon at 11 o'clock by Rev. J. R. Mayfield.

The missionary sermon was delivered by Rev. J. R. Mayfield to a large and attentive audience, from Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

A collection for Missions was taken up, amounting to $7.15.

Elder J. B. Small, of the Union Association, preached Sunday night from 1st Cor., 1:21, "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

THIRD DAY.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, who read 128th Psalm, and led in prayer.

Appointed standing committees, as follows: On Missions, James Mills, jr., J. M. Ashcraft, Rev. J. B. Ferguson, L. Brown and R. L. South.

On Sabbath Schools, James Mills, jr., G. W. Ashcraft, T. L. Hudson and J. T. Carter.

On Temperance, Rev. I. L. Collins, A. E. Patterson, G. D. Mayfield and Rev. J. A. Andrews.

Superannuated Ministers: Rev. J. M. Chism, A. Guin, J. M. Free and B. M. Freeman.

Denominational School: Rev. J. M. Chism, A. L. Walker, G. W. Ashcraft, L. Brown and A. M. Mills.

Report of Committee on Literature.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report as follows: That we find our relegious papers and periodicals much neglected, especially by the members of our denomination. We therefore recommend our state organ, The Alabama Baptist, the Foreign Mission Journal, the State Mission Journal, and the Sabbath School Convention Series to be used in our families and Sabbath Schools. And we urge that vigilence be used by every Christian parent to keep out all spurious, trashy and dangerous literature from our homes, schools and churches. J. E. Reeves, Chm'n.

Report of Committee on Temperance.

We would report: What is Temperance? It is that which God has ordained and commanded the whole human family to observe. 1st. We should be temperate in all things for the preservation of our physical powers. To be intemperate in eating, sleeping, working, talking, or in idleness, sows the seeds of disease; when permitted it brings dissolution of the body. 2nd. Temperance is the way that God has appointed for us to preserve our minds for a high and grand usefulness in life. Intemperance dethrones reason, makes the mind delirious—lowers it beneath the brute creation. It is degradation and shame in this life, and in the life to come everlasting death. The use of intoxicating spirits as a beverage, is intemperance, which lowers and ruins man and unfits him for any usefulness in life. It destroys the principle of love, making men without natural affection —liars, thievcs, murderers, and altogether wicked. Intemperance ruins the bright sons of fathers and mothers, brings many to jail and to the gallows. Brethren, we cannot afford to tolerate intemperance and drunkenness, when we look out and see the vast evil that is upon us today. Prov. 20:1—Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Prov. 23:32--At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. Chism, Chm'n.

Recess for 10 minutes.

Report of Committee on Missions.

We, your Committee on Missions, submit the following report: On account of the insufficiency of means, there has been no work done. Brethren, in as much as we are taught in the Scriptures that God loves a cheerful giver, let us work up to that point to give as the Lord has blessed us, then we will be able to employ some one to do the work so much needed in our Association.

Respectfully submitted, A. M. Mills, Chm'n.

Elder J. B. Small, of Union Association, was allowed to address the Body on the subject of Missions. He spoke for about forty-five

minutes; made an able talk, and opened the eyes of many. We have quite a number who do not believe in Mission work.

After this discourse the Body adjourned for one hour and a half for dinner, which was on the ground, for man and beast.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Body being called to order, the report of Committee on Sabbath Schools was called for:

Report on Sabbath Schools.

We, your Committee on Sabbath Schools report that, from reading the letters, there are but seven Sabbath Schools reported in this Association, and that there has been a Sabbath School convention held in the First district, and, from the report, the Sabbath School interest seems to be retrograding, and we recommend that the churches make a strong effort to organize and maintain Sabbath Schools throughout the year. And we recommend that the two Districts come together in one Convention, at a time and place agreed on by the Association, and discuss such questions as the Sabbath School interest demands, and hereafter would recommend the Sabbath Schools to convene with Corinth church on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in August, 1897.

Respectfully submitted, D. E. WINDHAM, Chm'n.

Report on Superannuated Ministers.

The report being called for, the Committee reported as follows:

We, your Committee, would report that we find three that need our aid, viz: Brothers I. L. Collins, J. S. White and R. J. Mayfield. We would recommend that a collection be taken up at once for them.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. ASHCRAFT, Chm'n.

A collection, amounting to $9.45, was taken up, and the Body ordered that the amount be equally divided between the three brethren.

Report on Documents.

The Committee on Documents reported as follows:

We beg leave to submit our report. We have examined the letters placed in our hands, and find there have been received by Baptism, 36; by letter, 16; dismissed by letter. 14; excluded, 16; died, 11; a loss of 19 members. We recommend that the memorial sent up by Dunn's Creek church, in respect to their deceased and Corinth church, be printed in our Minutes. We suggest that the Clerks of the several Churches be requested to make three letters to the Association as short and pointed as practicable.

Respectfully submitted, R. J. MAYFIELD, Chm'n.

Report on Education.

We, your Committee on Education, beg leave to report that we find the interests of Education on a stand-still. Let us look well to the education of our children, for the time is drawing near when they will have to fill our places; and the time is also approaching when the uneducated will not be recognized.

Respectfully submitted, A. E. PATTERSON, Ch'n.

Report on Nominations.

Called for report on nominations.

We, your Committee on Nominations, report as follows: Rev. J. A. Andrews to preach the introductory sermon at the next session

of the Association; Rev. R. J. Mayfield, alternate. Rev. J. M. Chism to preach the Missionary sermon; Rev. I. L. Collins, alternate.

Respectfully submitted, A. M. Mills, Chm'n.

Report on Denominational School.

Committee reported as follows: We, your Committe beg leave to report we haven't done anything as yet, for the reason that we have not had time to get together, and to confer with other Associations; but we recommend that a committee be appointed to further confer with New River Baptist Association in regard to the location and establishment of a Denominational School by the two Associations.

Respectfully submitted, J. M. Chism, Chm'n.

Deceased Members.

Dear Brethren:—Since our last report it has pleased an Allwise God to remove from the walks of men our beloved Brother and Deacon, J. W. Mitchell, one of the organizing members of the Sipsey Association. One by one we fall asleep in Jesus. He has gone to reap his reward. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. We request that this tribute of our love and respect be spread upon the Minutes of our Association. (Signed.) Corinth Church.

Brethren: —Since our last Association God, in His wisdom, has called three of our members from the walks of men, viz Brother A. L Gardner, and Sisters N. C. Mayfield and Martha Jones. We mourn the loss of our beloved Brother and Sisters, yet we feel our loss to be their eternal gain. Request of Dunn's Creek Church.

The following resolution was adopted;

Resolved 1, That we co-operate with the State Mission Board in the Missioon work. (2.) That we now turn over all funds on hand for Missions, to the State Board. (3.) That we request the delegates of each church to subscribe such amount as they are willing to pledge their church to pay to the State Board for Missions during the ensuing Associational year.

Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's report being called for, the following was presented:

Received for Minutes, $11.70; Associational Fund, $8.90. Paid for Minutes, $15 00; Clerk, $8.90. Respectfully submitted,

J. F. Ashcraft, Treas'r.

Report of Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee would report: Associational Fund, $9.40; Minute Fund, $12.80; Foreign Mission, $2.75; Home Mission, $10.05. Total, $35.00. Respectfully submitted,

D. E. Windham, Chm'n.

The following resolution, by A. E. Patterson, was adopted :

Resolved, That we turn over to the Clerk the funds sent up for Associational purposes; also, Minute Fund, and that the Clerk retain $2 of the last named fund to reimburse him for amount paid out for Minutes of last session.

Appointed J. F. Ashcraft, Treasurer.

By order of Mission Board I paid Rev. J. B. Small, the regular authorized agent of State Board to collect and receipt for same, $39.50. Respectfully submitted, J. F. Ashcraft, Treas'r.

The following amounts are to be paid during the ensuing year, to-wit: Corinth church, $10.00; Friendship, $5.00; Mt. Tabor, $5.00; Pleasant Grove, $2.00; Dunn's Creek, $2.00; Moore's Bridge, $1.00; Pleasant Ridge, $5.00; Spring Hill, $10.00. Total, $40.00.

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Pleasant Ridge church and community, for their unbounded hospitality to us during our stay with them. J. B. FERGUSON.

Resolved, That we now adjourn to meet with Arbor Springs on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1897, at 10 A. M.

After prayer by Rev. J. M. Chism, the congregation joined in singing a hymn, the delegates took the parting hand and thus closed the Seventh annual session of the Sipsey Baptist Association.

Elder J. B. FERGUSON, Moderator.

J. F. ASHCRAFT, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, on presenting their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The Association thus formed, a majority of the members present shall choose by ballot, a Moderstor and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

3. This Association shall be known as the Sipsey Baptist Association, which shall have the privilege to engage in missionary work in all its bearings, yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to membership.

4. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulties, and if the union be broken between two or more churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; provided the agrieved has followed the instructions laid down in the 18th chapter of Matthew, but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may consider unsound in doctrine or immoral in practice, until the same can be reconciled.

5. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication, giving the names of the delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excluded and deceased, since the last session.

6. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent at any annual session, shall be required to give a reason for her failure at the next session.

7. Churches may be admitted into this Association who petition by letter and delegates, and upon examination, if found orderly and orthodox, may be received, at the discretion of the Association when the Moderator shall give the right hand of fellowship to said delegates.

8. Any church in our union may send queries to the Association, asking advice, when it shall be the duty of the Association to answer the same as she may think best.

9. Voting may be confined exclusively to the Body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members present, except to change or amend the Constitution.

13. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session when two-thirds of the members present are in favor of amendment.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe there is only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of Election through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

8. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and never fall finally away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and the true believers are the only subjects of Baptism, and that by Immersion is the only Apostolic mode.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and in the General Judgement, and that the felicity of the righteous and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Church but one who is regularly baptized, called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

12 We believe that none but legally baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ART. 1. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2. The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order, and shall have discretionary right to call to order at any time.

3. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

5. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permirsion to speak, shall signify the same in naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every

motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a motion is taken up, after allowing time for debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association in such mode as he may determine.

9. The Moderator shall announce the decision of the Body.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

11. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.

12. The appellation of "Brother" shall be used in the Association by members in their address to one another.

13. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules, shall be reproved by the Moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

PROGRAM.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Read letters and enroll names of delegates.
3. Elect officers.
4. Receive Churches desiring to join this Association.
5. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
6. Receive, and return correspondents.
7. Appoint special standing committees.
8. Receive reports of District Meetings.
9. Receive report of Sabbath School Committee, and Convention.
10. Receive report on Temperance.
11. Receive report on Missions.
12. Receive report on Superannuated Ministers.
13. Receive reports on Documents, Education, Religious Literature, Nominations.

STATISTICS OF SIPSEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1896.

Churches.	County.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Postoffice.	Mem'b'p last R.	Baptized	Received by L.	Excluded	Died	Present M'b'p.	Asso'n'l Fund	Minute Fund
Arbor Spring,	Tuscaloosa,	J. R. Barnett,	J. W. Falls,	Samantha,	59	8				67	50	1 00
Bethabara,	Tuscaloosa,	J. M. Andrews,	G. L. Trawick,		63	3				66	50	85
Corinth,	Tuscaloosa,	S. E. Hodge,	J. A. Mitchell,		79	14	2	2	1	85	50	1 00
Dunn's Creek,	Tuscaloosa,	J. M. Chism,	A. J. Lewis,	Fox,	125	1			2	119	50	1 00
Friendship,	Tuscaloosa,	J. B. Ferguson,	N. B. Ramsey,	McConnells,	61	2	4			60	50	1 00
Moore's Bridge	Tuscaloosa,	R J. Mayfield,	D E Windham	Moore's Bridge,	42	1	1	1	3	24	100	50
Macedonia,	Tuscaloosa,	L. L. Collins,	[illegible] R. Falls,		24					24	50	50
Mt. Hebron,	Tuscaloosa,	J. A. Andrews,	J. E. Watson,	McGonnells,	30				1	31	25	75
New Hope,	Fayette,	J. J. Patterson,	R. L. South,	Reuben,	60		6	3		51	50	1 00
Sardis, 2nd Dist.	Fayette,	G. H. White,	J. H. Smith,	Ridge,	23		2			23	25	50
Chapel Hill,	Fayette,	J. J. Patterson.	W. H. Brown,	Pilgrim,	94		3	3	3	89	30	70
Double Branch	Pickens,	J. A. Andrews,	J. H. Gardner,	Lubbub,	41		2	1		38	60	75
Oak Ridge,	Fayette,	J. W. Hosmer,	Jas. Branyan,	Pilgrim,	17	7	1			29	75	25
Mt. Tabor.	Pickens,	J. M. Chism,	R A Richardson	Palmetto,	44				2	41	50	1 00
Pleasant Ridge	Fayette,	F Wilson,	J. F. Ashcraft.	Loco,	61		2	2		58	75	75
Pleasant Grove	Pickens,	J. A. Andrews,	A. S. Bailey,	Gordo,	42				1	44	50	75
Spring Hill,	Tuscaloosa,	J. M. Chism,	A. Guin,	Moore's Bridge,	77		1	2			50	1 00

Dear Bro.